

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of :  
Nilsen :  
: Group Art Unit: 1656  
Application No. Not Yet Assigned: :  
: Examiner: J. Riley  
Filed: Herewith :  
: Date: July 23, 2001  
For: Optimally Labeled :  
Oligonucleotides :  
X

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, the following  
amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS:

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Application  
Serial No. 09/482,803, filed January 13, 2000, which is a  
continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/909,539, filed August 12,  
1997, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial  
No. 08/657,961, filed June 4, 1996, which is incorporated herein  
by reference.

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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS:

[0002] This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/482,803, filed January 13, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/909,539, filed August 12, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/657,961, filed June 4, 1996, which is incorporated herein by reference.

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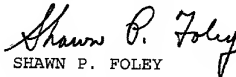
REMARKS

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that these amendments now be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application now be initiated. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe such action can be taken, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any objections which he may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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